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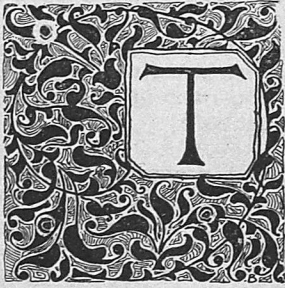
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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

A COMPLETE KITCHEN AND PANTRY.

BY KATHERINE B. JOHNSON.



THE predominant lack of domestic conveniences in modern houses has recently met with a vigorous protest. A recent writer declares that "an elegant drawing-room and a luxurious den are the most essential requisites of a high-class modern house."

Possibly this is true; the writer may have better facilities than I for knowing, but, I am more inclined to think it the wail of a pessimist, one of those dyspeptic croakers who are

always magnifying what has been to the derogation of what is, and I shall continue to believe that the commodious, well-equipped kitchen, laundry, closets and pantry of my friend Mrs. M—, are the representatives of many to be found in the picturesquely beautiful houses that have been built of late.

It is not a mansion or even a pretentious house, only the home of a prosperous tradesman, and cost but \$6,000.

It is a town house, but has ample grounds; consequently the outlook at the rear is open and pleasant.

The latter was an important consideration in selecting a site, for Mrs. M— has very decided opinions regarding the vexed "servant question" and the duties of the mistress in its solution. She believes that pleasant, convenient rooms, an ample supply of utensils and working tools, and a genuine humane consideration of their comfort will do much to secure efficient, willing and faithful service.

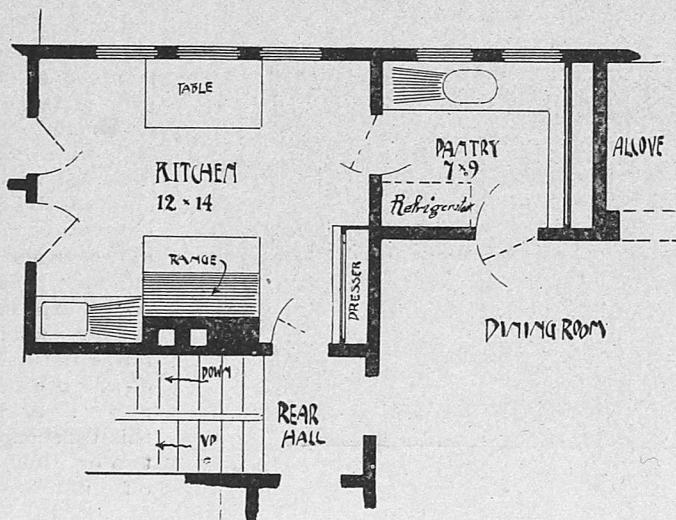
Their first consideration then, in making plans, was to secure an arrangement that would necessitate the least possible outlay of strength and time to accomplish the required work. Every part of the finish is strong and simple without superfluous mouldings, jig-sawings or ornamentation of any sort.

The walls are of smooth-finished adamant; the side walls are painted a deep cream color, with a stencilled terra cotta frieze, and the ceiling a lighter shade of cream.

The floors, counter-shelves and drain-boards, as well as the simple moulding that is placed where the wainscoting and floor join, are of maple, and the latter was put down with white lead to make waterproof.

The shelves—all movable—are of pine, unpainted, while the remainder of the woodwork is painted a soft golden olive; and all the wood finish and walls are varnished with a good waterproof varnish.

All glasswork in cupboards and windows, except the lower



PLAN OF KITCHEN AND PANTRY.

sash of kitchen windows, is small lights, the former consisting of one large light each.

The kitchen has gas at the side near the corner at the right of the table, and at the center of the ceiling; the latter, with metal hood over, connected with vent-flue, to aid in ventilation on summer evenings.

The pantry has gas over the sink, and double swing doors connect it with the kitchen and side hall. The windows are four feet four inches from the floor.

The sink is of copper, oval shaped and open underneath, with exposed plumbing; counter-shelf at the right, and drain-board at the left. The sink is supplied with hot and cold water through basin cocks; the refrigerator opposite is connected with plumbing, and has two cupboards with sliding glass doors over.

The convenient arrangement of drawers, flour-box, counter-shelf and cupboards, which occupy the entire space at one end of the pantry, will be readily understood from the accompanying sketch. The upper cupboards are used for storage of china.

The kitchen range sets on a brick hearth two feet wider than the depth of the range. The hot water boiler is placed horizontally over the range, and a metal hood over the latter is connected with a vent-flue in the chimney.

An opening in the upper part of the outside wall of the kitchen is provided with a register, and thus excellent ventilation is secured.

The dresser is built in the room, and needs no minute description. A cast-steel kitchen sink and a drain-board are placed between the range and corner of the room.

The three windows are three feet six inches from the floor,



DRESSER IN KITCHEN

and between the strong maple table, with drawers, which stands in front of them and the corner of the room is a space which in summer is occupied with a gas stove.

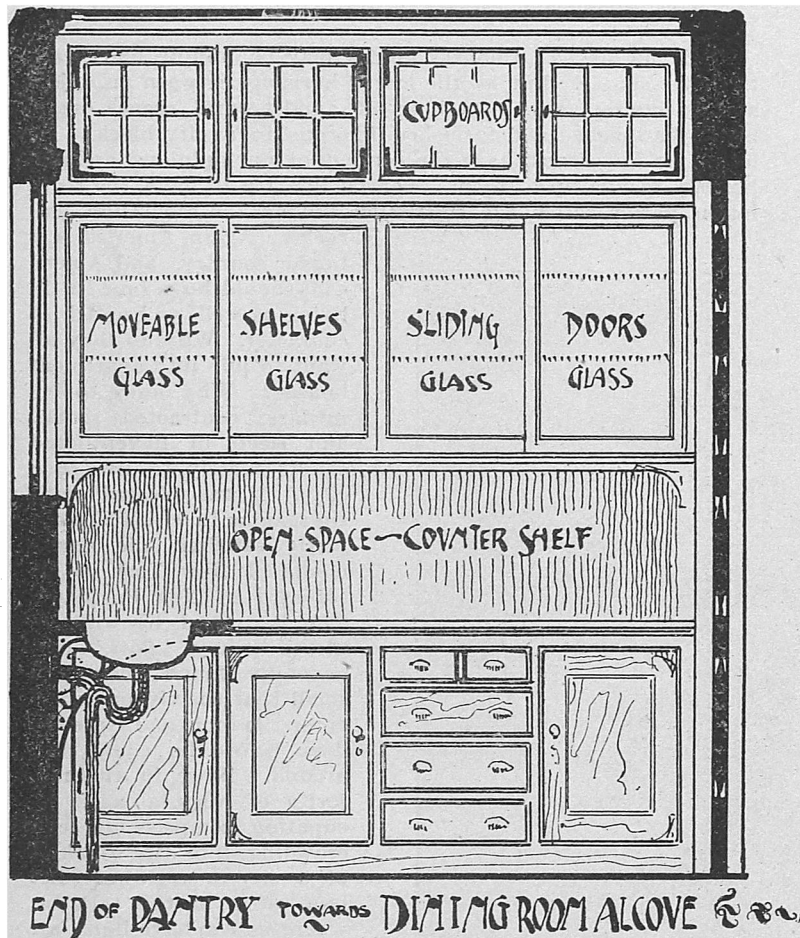
Fly-screens are at the door and windows, and awnings are over the latter. Some home-made rugs are on the floor, and a small table and easy chair are at the right of the large table.

Opening off the kitchen is a small pot closet, with shelves on both sides; a small casement window in the center of one end, and slop-hopper, under.

HOUSE FURNITURE that is properly made should last as long as the house, and grow more beautiful with time. Unhappily there is very little such furniture now. The cheap, veneered, showy furniture, tricked out in gewgaws to catch the eye of the crowd, is not made to wear. There is, however, good furniture to be had, and though it will cost more and will not be as showy as the veneered stuff, it represents genuine value. Select your furniture deliberately, remembering that there are only a few people in any community wealthy enough to change their furniture as often as they change the cut of their gowns. The

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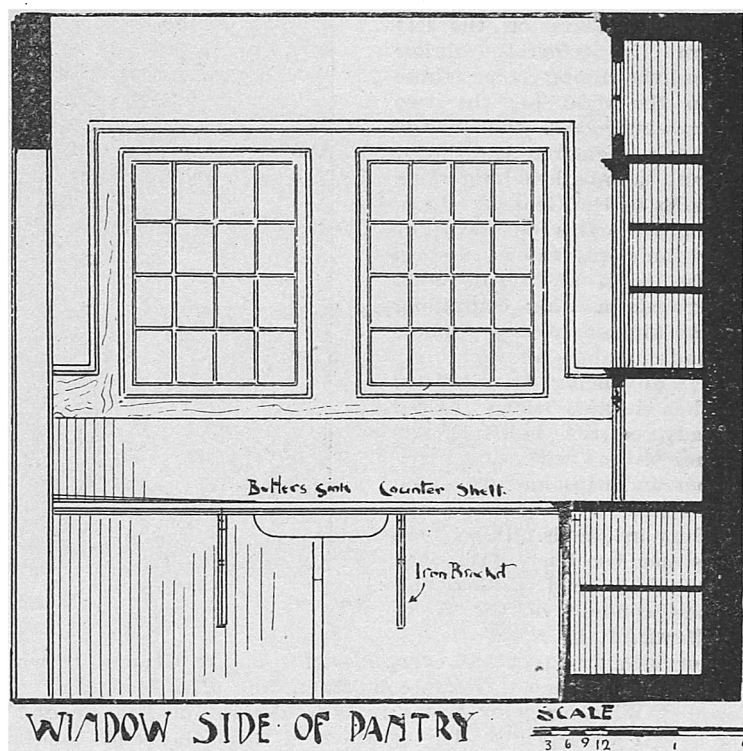
houses that are furnished in the most satisfactory manner are those occupied by people wise enough not to buy any more furniture than was absolutely necessary at first, waiting to buy old pieces as opportunity offered. Happy indeed those families who possess old pieces of furniture handed down from generations past, which has been kept in such good order that it is improved rather than injured by time. Large pieces of furniture that have much carving on them should be carefully covered



when a room is swept, and smaller pieces should be taken out. It is essential that furniture should be kept thoroughly dusted. Rubbing furniture vigorously with a soft chamois or a flannel once a week will keep it in nice condition. It is a good plan to use a rattan-beater to beat the dust out of upholstered furniture at the weekly sweeping. A soft wisp-broom is also necessary to brush off the furniture. Do this before the sweeping and remove the dusted chairs and other pieces that are easily movable to a place free from dust. Cover up the larger pieces and proceed to sweep. Let the dust settle and sweep the room a second time, using this time a broom merely dampened with salt and water. Let the dust settle again, and replace the furniture. Remember the dusting down of the walls with a long-handled feather or hair duster reaching to the ceiling, should be a part of the weekly dusting. When the room is dusted the last time, and not till then, uncover the furniture, being careful not to shake the dust off the covers, but to do them up and take them to a window to shake them out. Care should be taken, however, that this dust does not fly back in the room, as it may. If the sweeping has been properly done no dust will drift into the furniture, as it will in a careless sweeping, and cause in a few hours more wear than could come from a month of steady use. A fine piece of wood certainly mellows with time. It is said to be a good plan to rub furniture once in two or three months with a preparation of a gill of good linseed oil and a teaspoonful of cider vinegar. Mix the oil and vinegar thoroughly and apply it with a soft flannel cloth, and polish the furniture dry with an old chamois skin or flannel. Do not leave any oil on the surface of the furniture when it is done. It is not wise to apply any polish to furniture oftener than once in two or three months. If it is applied oftener the furniture may become gummy and be more injured than improved. Dusting thoroughly, vigorous polishing occasionally and systematic care will do more good, however, than any elaborate applications can to keep furniture in good condition.

MANY OF THE home-made rugs are preferable to the machinery-made varieties, and the chief charm about these is the same that make the Oriental rugs so popular—the lack of machine-like regularity and uniformity. True art is diversity in uniformity. The fault of most of the home-made rugs is that they are not woven tight enough, and as a result the fuzzy part has to be left long. If this could be cut off short and even as the Turkish rugs handsome productions would be made at small expense. In order to do this after the fashion of the Eastern rug and carpet makers make a stout frame-work of wood about a foot larger than the rugs are to be. Then string coarse fish line from one end to the other, pulling them just as tight as the strings will stand without snapping. They should be placed as close together as possible. Separate every other one and run a stick between the rows. Then tie in a double knot each piece of colored cord or rag of fancy material, cut in strips of about two inches, or less, to the upper row of fish-line. Put each piece close together. Then remove the stick and bring on top the other row of fish-lines. Repeat this operation until the rug is finished. Then tie the ends of the fish-lines together and conceal them from view in the back. The rug should then be sewed to some old piece of carpet cut the desired length. Cut the ends of the brussels off evenly all over and just as short as possible. This will give the rug a firm, compact look.

THE FOLLOWING is the description of an actual method of decorating a basement hall: The hall was made to appear wider than it actually was by having wide folding doors between hall and dining-room instead of one or two single ones, as is often the case. The woodwork was a light oak, the paper quite light, and instead of an oilcloth there was a Japanese cream ground matting, figured with odd red and blue zigzag. The whole upper portion of the inner basement door opening from the inside was set with panes of colored glass in light tints, pink, blue and cream, so that the first view which greeted the guest coming downstairs was not the usual dark door, but these soft, tinted gleams of light. Opposite the folding doors in the hall and within range of the light from the two dining-



room windows was a wall cupboard—light oak, called by the head of the family his "grocery store," and, in fact, as he swung open the doors those rows of jams, olives, boxes of sardines, jars of preserves and bottles of various shapes and sizes looked most appetizing. Beneath this cupboard stood a bright red wooden seat, with cane bottom. Instead of the side gas fixture the hall was lighted by a hanging lantern, which in the evening threw bright rays into every corner. This is, without any exception, the cheeriest basement we have ever seen.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER costs \$4.00 per year.